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TITLE: ATTITUDE OF IRAQ TO MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

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RECEIVED IN
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- 2 MAR 1971
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Mr. Beckett
Near Eastern Department

①
 ✓ Mr. Tandy
 ✓ Mr. Makinson
 ✓ Mr. Lang
 ✓ Mr. Egan
 ✓ R.E.
 Encl. 3. 29.3.25
 ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

The Iraqi Ambassador called on Mr. Kershaw this morning. He said that as Mr. Kershaw knew he wanted to come and pay his respects, and wished to raise the subject of the Middle East.

2. He had been speaking to the UAR Charge d'Affaires who had said that he hoped progress towards peace could be made by the Four Powers. It was his (Mr. Khalaf's) impression that Britain was exerting some pressure on Israel to respond to the latest Egyptian proposals submitted through Dr. Jarring. Was this so?

3. Mr. Kershaw said that it was: HMG had intimated discreetly that some response should be forthcoming following the Egyptian advances.

4. The Ambassador asked Mr. Kershaw if he did not think that Egypt now appeared to be proceeding independently of Jordan. Mr. Kershaw agreed that this seemed to be so.

5. After a brief discussion of the Anglo-Iraqi Parliamentary Group (see separate minute), Mr. Khalaf reverted to the Middle East, and asked whether Mr. Kershaw thought the cease-fire would be renewed? Mr. Kershaw said that he would expect this: the Israeli reply to Dr. Jarring would presumably be received by 7 March. The Iraqi Ambassador spoke of Mr. Eban's article in the Guardian yesterday and asked if the Israelis were still annoyed with HMG following the Secretary of State's Harrogate speech. Mr. Kershaw replied that he thought the Israelis were still vexed at not receiving the support which they thought they formerly had.

6. Mr. Khalaf

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6. Mr. Khalaf referred to a report that the Israelis had offered to return 98% of the Sinai to the Arabs - this however to exclude Sharm el Sheikh and a piece of land behind or near El Arish. Mr. Kershaw commented that he knew the Israelis attached great importance to Sharm el Sheikh.

7. Mr. Khalaf referred to the subject of a referendum which he found an extraordinary suggestion. He also asked if Britain would participate in a UN force. Mr. Kershaw said he thought we would do so if this were part of the price of a settlement. However the question did not yet arise.

Among the
refugees?
R.E.
73

Mary Rigby
(M C Rigby) (Miss)

24 February 1971

c.c. Mr. Renwick

Iraqi Ambassador, Mr. Khalaf, Offers His Views On Middle East Situation. Attitude Of Iraq To A Settlement In Middle East. 26 Apr. 1972. MS Middle East Online: Iraq, 1914-1974: Selected files from series AIR, CAB, CO, FCO, FO, PREM, T, WO, The National Archives, Kew, UK FCO 17/1498. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com/apps/doc/SC5107476235/GDSC?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-GDSC&xid=9126ec15&pg=1. Accessed 11 Apr. 2022.